

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as anticipated by Ressler. In support of the rejection, the Examiner asserts that Ressler discloses a central section "attached to a side of ramp (44)." This is not what is being claimed. Claim 1 recites that a "central section is coupled to one of the remaining sections" of the bumper. As such, there can be no anticipation.

The assertion of "indirect" attachment belies anticipation. Claim 1 recites "coupling." Thus, whether the attachment be direct or indirect, the result is that the central section "swings like a gate." This operation is impossible in the structure disclosed by the Ressler patent.

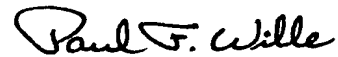
Claims 7 and 10 were rejected as anticipated by Deacon. In support of this rejection, the Examiner reads the term "gate" on one of the rear doors of the full size van disclosed in the Deacon patent. This reading obviously ignores claim language. Claim 7 recites "a mini-van having a rear opening" and "a rear door closing the rear opening." Obviously, neither one of rear doors 13 alone closes the rear opening. Both doors are required. The Deacon patent itself discloses that the rear opening is "closed by two doors 13" [column 3, line 20]. There is no anticipation.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is obliged to accept the prior art as written and not twist the disclosure and misuse terminology to find anticipation.

A patent specification is addressed to one of ordinary skill in the art. Although patent examiners are not ones of ordinary skill in the art, *Office personnel must always remember to use the perspective of one of ordinary skill in the art. Claims and disclosures are not to be evaluated in a vacuum.* [MPEP §2106] Would one of ordinary skill in the relevant art confuse one of the rear doors on a full size van with a gate? It is respectfully submitted that he would not.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul F. Wille".

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